



BALTIMORE DOG PARK APPLICATION PROCESS

RULES AND REGULATIONS

EFFECTIVE: 1 AUGUST 2004

APPLICATION PROCESS:

- 1) The particular community which is interested in creating a dog park will first need to approach the Director of Recreation and Parks with a map of the potential park indicating the size, shape and location of the dog park as well as proposed parking locations (existing or otherwise) for visitors to the dog park. For dog park applications that are not on Recreation and Park property, applications must be submitted to the Director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods.
- 2) After reviewing the plan for the dog park, Recreation and Parks will make a determination as to the feasibility of the dog park using the criteria developed below.
- 3) Shortly thereafter written letters of approval from the area's community association (s) and consent from the majority of surrounding residents within a 200-foot radius will be required. For dog parks above 100 feet and below 200 feet away from residences, a Planning Commission approval process will be required. Signs must be posted on the proposed location in accordance with the Planning Commission's procedures.
- 4) A "Friends of the Dog Park" organization shall be established. This committee will be responsible for raising funds or soliciting donated materials for the creation of the dog park that meet the chosen criteria (see the criteria section below for more information).
- 5) The "Friends" group shall also present a plan for regular maintenance of the park. Maintenance items include: mowing, washing of blue stone, aeration, lime application, grass-seeding, soil testing, refilling doggie bag dispenser, trash removal, feces removal and fence repair.
- 6) This group must enter into a formal Partnership Agreement with Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks for the maintenance and upkeep of the dog park. Failure to comply with the terms of the Partnership Agreement may result in the closure of the dog park.

GENERAL CRITERIA FOR A DOG PARK:

- 1) As mentioned above, a “Friends of the Park” group will need to be established or contacted in each area that a dog park is built in order to assume some level of responsibility for the park.
- 2) There will be a 200-foot minimum distance from any dog park to businesses, residences and at 100-foot minimum distance from any bodies of water.
- 3) Dog Parks may not be built on a steep incline. If grading is an issue, please check with Recreation and Parks
- 4) Dog Parks will not be placed in the ten-year flood plain.
- 5) Dog parks will not be placed in any area where they will negatively impact primary uses of the park.
- 6) Average estimated dog park size should be between one and 15 acres.
- 7) A potable water source will be provided to the dog park as long as the existing water line is within a reasonable distance and the cost of doing so will not be prohibitive (as defined by the Department of Recreation and Parks’ Director). If a water source is not provided to the park, a waiver will be considered, which will require dog owners to bring enough water for both themselves and their animals. If owner fails to provide water, the liability for pet health falls upon the owner.
- 8) There must be a minimum height of six-feet fencing separating the dog park into two partitions. One partition is required for small and elderly dogs.
- 9) The basic components of construction must include:
 - Six-foot fencing, a double-gated entry, gate latches, signage displaying the rules and regulations, doggie- bag dispensers and trash cans.
 - In addition, Recreation and Parks requires one-foot wide concrete footers along the perimeter of any fencing.
 - Construction may also require water access (outside the fenced area of the dog park), benches, agility structures, specialized plantings and other items.
- 10) Depending on the size of the dog park, a 10-foot locked entry way may be required for City maintenance vehicles to enter the dog park.

RULES AND REGULATIONS (TO BE POSTED OUTSIDE OF THE DOG PARK; PLEASE SEE EXHIBIT A):

- 1) Owners are legally responsible for their dogs and any injury caused by their dogs.
- 2) Professional dog walkers, trainers and groomers shall not use the dog park to conduct their business.
- 3) Only two dogs will be allowed per person at any one time.
- 4) Children under 10 years of age will not be permitted in the dog park and children under 16 must be under the direct supervision of an adult.
- 5) Owners must clean up after their pets by sealing feces in a plastic bag and disposing of it in designated trash receptacles.
- 6) Dogs with a known history of dangerous behavior are prohibited.
- 7) Dogs must be vaccinated against distemper and provirus, and regularly examined and treated for parasites.
- 8) Dogs must wear a collar with identification, current dog license and current rabies tag at all times.
- 9) Puppies under four months of age are prohibited.
- 10) Dogs must be spayed or neutered.
- 11) Leaving dogs unattended is prohibited. Owners must closely supervise their dogs at all times.
- 12) Owners must have a leash readily available at all times. Dogs shall be leashed prior to entering and upon leaving the dog park.
- 13) If owner fails to provide water, the liability for pet health falls upon the owner.
- 14) The following is prohibited on the Dog Park's premises: food or treats for dogs or humans; glass containers; alcohol; children's toys; or human sports equipment (e.g., football, baseball, skateboards, roller-blades, etc.) into the Dog Park.